



**US Army Corps
of Engineers
Detroit District**

News Release

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Marine company pays noncompliance fine for work at the Wyandotte Boat Club

DETROIT – Under the terms of settlement agreement filed on October 23, 2000, in the United States District Court, Detroit, Michigan, Hurst Marine *et al.*, agreed to the payment of a \$14,000 fine for completing work for the Wyandotte Boat Club without benefit of the necessary permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The claim against Hurst *et al.*, Hurst, was filed by the U.S. Attorney, Eastern District of Michigan, on behalf of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Corps is responsible for enforcing compliance with Federal laws, which regulate work in the Great Lakes.

A draft Department of the Army permit was sent to the Wyandotte Boat Club, WBC, on January 3, 1997, authorizing the construction of 405' of steel seawall, 204' pier with finger extensions, and dredging approximately 10,666 cubic yards of material from the marina basin located in the Detroit River. The draft permit required that all dredged material be placed in the Pte. Mouillee Confined Disposal Facility, CDF, to minimize contamination to the Detroit River or surrounding area. The WBC did not accept the draft permit because of its requirement that the dredged material be stored in the CDF. The Corps withdrew the draft permit on April 16, 1997.

On February 9, 1999, Hurst was observed dredging and sidecasting spoil material onto the parking lot and behind a newly constructed seawall located on the WBC's property. Hurst initiated the work without obtaining the required Corps permit. The WBC admitted authorizing the work on their property in lieu of the required authorization.

According to the Corps, "The fine reflects the serious nature of the violation. Had the Corps not aggressively pursued enforcement action and brought this matter to a swift conclusion, the Detroit River would have been potentially vulnerable to other instances of illegal dredging and sidecasting activities. This fine is a strong message that the Corps, through stringent enforcement, will carry out its congressionally mandated mission to protect the publics' entitlement to clear water in the Great Lakes".

The settlement agreement not only resolved the dredging and sidecasting activities, but also addressed the unpermitted seawall and proposed pier with finger extensions within the marina basin. The dredged material was tested and placed in the Riverview Landfill. The settlement agreement resolved the Federal enforcement action against Hurst *et al.* A similar agreement was made with the Wyandotte Boat Club on December 1, 1999.

Contact William Seib, in the Corps Regulatory Office if you have further questions regarding this settlement.

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